

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives EU Ambassador, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar



NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received European Union (EU) Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Roland Kobia at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 2 pm today.

The Vice-President also met UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar at the same venue at 3.30 pm.

At the meeting, they

discussed close cooperation of the EU in reform process of Myanmar, Myanmar peace-making process, political process, and stability and rehabilitation works in Rakhine State.

The meetings were also attended by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Win.—MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo together with UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party at Credentials Hall.—MNA

IMF praises Myanmar's reform efforts

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan— The International Monetary Fund praised Myanmar's economic reform efforts on Tuesday, saying it had met key targets for strengthening its finances and reforming management.

It said the economic outlook for the Asian country is good, forecasting growth in fiscal 2013-2014 to rise to 7.5 per cent and near 7.8 per cent the

following year.

"Myanmar is undergoing an exciting transition," Matt Davies, leader of a review team, said in a statement.

He cited the sweeping reforms that included removing exchange restrictions and adopting a floating rate for the kyat in the past year; the establishment of an autonomous central bank; and large increases in government and spending

on health and education.

"The authorities aim to build on these gains and achieve sustained, strong, and inclusive growth," he said.

The IMF said the current target of keeping the deficit below 5 per cent of GDP was appropriate, but that tax revenues remain too low and the tax base too narrow. It also said Myanmar still needs several years of sustained reform to mod-

ernise the country's financial sector, stressing close oversight of new policy banks set up by the government "to ensure they are managed soundly and to minimize fiscal risks."

The Fund said it is ready to continue helping the Myanmar government with reforms through policy advice, progress monitoring and tailored technical assistance to help it build capacity for managing the economy.

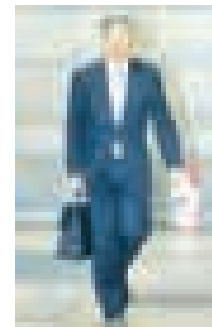
AFP/MNA

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BOJ maintains ultraeasy monetary policy, FY 2015 price outlook

Public awareness campaign increasing fish resources in Inlay Lake underway



"Efforts to increase fish resources and to end a method of fishing with battery shocks in Inlay Lake are undertaken in cooperation with local people and environmentalists," said U Sein Tun, an official of Inlay Lake Wetland Sanctuary.

Inlay Lake is home to 59 species of fish and 16 species of them are found nowhere. Educative cam-

Inlay Lake with spectacular background of mountain ranges.

paigns are being conducted to promote public awareness of fishing with battery shocks that can kill not only fish but also microorganisms that help improve water quality.

According to a tomato grower from Kayla village, fishing with battery shocks has an adverse impact on floating tomato plantations on Inlay Lake.

An official of Fisheries Department warned of the decrease in the number of living water resources in the lake due to the method of fishing with battery shocks

that can kills all water resources. Moreover, growth and fertility problems happen to the fish escaping the electric shocks and eating fish that received electric shocks may result human health problems in long term.

That's why, fishing with batter shocks has been prohibited by Notification No (10/2005) of the Fisheries Department in order to avoid degradation of natural resources in Inlay Lake.

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Trs: YM

Byline: *Nay Myo Thurein*



Paungde Free Clinic holds annual meeting, reviews progress of works



PAUNGDE, 22 Jan—Paungde Township Free Clinic held the 2012-2013 annual meeting and reviewed its tasks at the IQ restaurant in Market Ward of Paungde of Bago Region (West) on 20 January morning.

It was attended by Bago Region Hluttaw

representative U Aung Naing Oo, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major San Wai and departmental officials.

Chairman of the clinic committee U Lu Myint made a speech. Executive U Zaw Lwin read the executive committee report

and presented certificates of honour to doctors, nurses and volunteers.

Next, wellwishers presented K 100,000 each to seven doctors and K 30,000 each to nine nurses.

The clinic could give medical treatment to 6,982 patients within one year, said executive U Ye Lay.

Kyemon-Tin Win Zaw (Minthargyi)

Cetanamon Free Clinic (Yamethin) accepts cash and kind donations

YAMETHIN, 22 Jan—Cetanamon Free Clinic is giving health care services to the people regardless of race and religion.

Wellwishers doated cash and kind to the

fund of the clinic for its development.

The clinic is kept open from 12 noon to 4 pm five days a week. On 8 February, wellwisher will open these facilities.—*Kyemon-011*

Kawthoung dwellers enjoy health care with traditional medicines



KAWTHOUNG, 22 Jan—Kawthoung Township Traditional Medicine Department held the health care service in conjunction with the health knowledge talks at the Dhammayon of Pulontonton Village of

Kawthoung Township on 18 January afternoon.

It is aimed at broadening horizon of the local people in health sector, preventing the diseases and providing medical treatment to be able to prevent outbreak of diseases.

Head of Township

Traditional Medicine Department U Maung Maung Myint Oo and his assistant Daw Soe Soe Oo gave lectures on health knowledge and gave health care to 45 people with traditional medicines.

Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Surprise checks on vehicles

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—With the aim of reducing traffic accidents and ensuring traffic rules enforcements, members of Traffic Police Corps, General Administration Department and officials of Township Police Force performed surprise check on vehicles

and motorbikes along the route from Ahayathukha market to Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council this morning.

They also carried out surprise checks on driver licences and wheel tax, and wearing helmets.

Dekkhhina District IPRD

Nippon Foundation of Japan hands over new school buildings to Education Ministry

LOILEM, 22 Jan—Under the arrangements of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department of Shan State (South) and NGO of Japan the Nippon Foundation (Cetana Group), the Academic Project for Peace and Development was implemented in Panglong

Sub-Township.

In implementing the project one 90x30x15 feet new school building was built at Basic Education Primary School No. 5 in Ward 2 of Panglong Sub-Township.

One more building, 60 feet x 30 feet x 12 feet, was

handed over to Education Department in Nawngghu Village of Panwoh Village-tract in Loilem Township.

The handing over ceremonies were held at Panglong BEPS No. 5 on 20 January.

Township Administrator U Hlwan Moe Han,

Shan State Hluttaw MP U Sai Ba Oo, the acting Township Education Officer and Project Director of Nippon Foundation Daw Aye Aye Thant formally opened the new building and visited there.

Officials made speeches. Officials of Nippon Foundation (Cetana Group) handed over documents related to the buildings to the construction committee patron. The new building is facilitated with five toilets, two water tanks, five sets of tables and chairs, 40 desks for students, K 4.2 million for development fund and teaching aids worth K 36.465 million.

Similar ceremony was held in Nawngghu Village. The school building in Panwoh Village costs K 22 million.

Kyemon-Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)

Three vehicles collided in a row in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—A traffic accident occurred among two vehicles and one motorbike at Zabukyetthayay Road, in front of the Tele-communications Office opposite to Township Development Affairs Committee Office, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, at 7 pm yesterday.

A Mazda Jeep driven by U Aung Than Oo from

Pyinmana-Taungnyo roads to Zabukyetthayay road bumped against a garbage van driven by U Nyan Tun. After that, these vehicles hit a motorcycle driven by U Zaw Zaw Oo. The Mazda Jeep caused upside down and the garbage van hit the wall of Thazin Hall.

The injured were rushed to 1000-bed People's Hospital.

NLM-015



WORLD



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) holds talks with Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations and League of Arab States joint special representative for Syria, in Montreux, Switzerland, on 21 Jan, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Six of Spanish cyclist's 12 guards killed in Pakistan's wild west

QUETTA, (Pakistan), 22 Jan — Gunmen on Wednesday shot dead six guards protecting a Spanish cyclist in a violent and remote area of western Pakistan where a bus bomb killed 24 Shi'ite pilgrims a day earlier, police said.

The cyclist, who suffered minor wounds, had crossed into Pakistan's western Province of Baluchistan from Iran, they said. Six guards were wounded.

Police said they did not know why he was cycling through such a dangerous area. He was assigned the escort by security forces because the province is plagued by kidnappers, Taliban militants, a violent separatist insurgency, sectarian killers, paramilitary death squads and drug traffickers.

Two young Czech women taking the same route by bus were kidnapped in March and are still being held.

The cyclist and his guards were travelling

through Mastung District when gunmen attacked.

"Six of our security men have been killed trying to save the Spanish cyclist, who has suffered minor injuries," said Shafqat Anwar Shawani, the assistant police commissioner for Mastung District. One attacker was also killed, he said.

In the same district on Tuesday, a bomb targeting a bus killed 24 Shi'ite pilgrims, many of them women and children. Such sectarian attacks are increasingly common in Pakistan, where Shi'ites make up 20 percent of the 180 million people.

On Wednesday, hundreds of Shi'ites protested against the bus bombing by sitting in the road alongside the bodies of the dead in the provincial capital of Quetta.

The community held similar protests demanding protection after bombings in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan, killed around 200 people, mostly Shi'ites, last year.—Reuters

Ukraine PM takes hard line on protests, three killed overnight

KIEV, 22 Jan — Ukraine's prime minister said on Wednesday that anti-government protests had brought "terrorists" onto the streets of Kiev

and pledged to punish all "criminal action", even as protesters confronted police near government headquarters.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, speaking to his cabinet, took a tough line

A woman addresses Ukrainian Interior Ministry members who lined up during clashes with pro-European protesters in Kiev 22 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS



Perplexed' India says US probably still most important ally

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — The case of the Indian consul arrested and strip-searched in New York last month was handled "appallingly" and needs to be resolved, but the United States remains probably India's most important ally, the Indian Ambassador to Washington said on Tuesday. "I won't underplay this incident, I won't overplay this incident. I think we need to see it in perspective," S Jaishankar said in an interview. "I think we are in the midst of working this one out."

Jaishankar said India was "perplexed" by the decisions of US authorities to arrest and strip-search 39-year-old Devyani Khobragade, India's deputy consul in New York, after

she was accused of visa fraud and underpaying her maid.

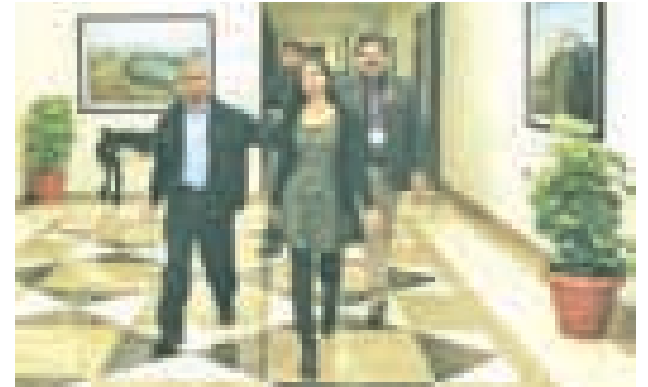
"There was a fair measure of anger about both the substance of the problem and the way it was handled," he said. "It was not just done publicly; frankly it was done appallingly."

But Jaishankar, who arrived in Washington in December after serving as Indian Ambassador to China, played down the impact on the practical side of the relationship — emphasizing that the two sides were still talking despite the postponement of two high-level US visits this month, including one by US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

"Frankly, it's probably the most important relationship," he said. "We

are not holding up business, or Pentagon dealings, or congressional dealings ... or science programme and saying, 'They don't get done until things get sorted out.'" Jaishankar said, however, there was a need to resolve both the Khobragade

case and the broader issue of the lesser level of diplomatic immunity accorded to Indian and other foreign consular staff in the United States compared with what Washington expects for its consular staff serving overseas.—Reuters



Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade (C) arrives with her father Uttam Khobragade (L) at Maharashtra Sadan state guesthouse in New Delhi on 10 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

Russian police kill Islamist militant leader before Olympics



Police officers patrol at Krasnaya Polyana near Sochi on 21 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

Moscow, 22 Jan — Police have killed a senior Islamist militant in Russia's North Caucasus ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, where security forces searched on Tuesday for a woman they fear is planning an attack during the games.

Eldar Magatov, a suspect in attacks on Russian targets and alleged leader

of an insurgent group in the Babyurt District of Dagestan, died in a shootout, the National Anti-Terror Committee said on Tuesday.

President Vladimir Putin has staked his political reputation on organizing a successful Olympics and tightened security nationwide after insurgents who hope to create an Islamist state in the North Cauca-

sus threatened to attack the games, which start on 7 February 7. Putin had a phone call on Tuesday with US President Barack Obama in which they discussed how best to have a "safe and secure" Winter Olympics, the White House said.

In Sochi, which plans to host hundreds of thousands of visitors during the games, security forces were searching for Ruzanna Ibragimovaya, 23, who may have arrived to the Olympic host city on 11-12 January, a letter seen by Reuters said. "(She) may be used as a terrorist-suicide bomber by (insurgency) leaders to organize terrorist acts during preparations for and during the 2014 Winter Olympics," read the letter, asking police to look immediately into the matter.

Reuters

for anti-government protests, which he said destabilized the situation in Ukraine, a large former Soviet republic of 46 million people.

But in a move underlining U.S. criticism of his government's heavy-handed treatment of the protesters, the U.S. embassy in Kiev said it had revoked the visas of several Ukrainians linked to police violence against protesters in November and December.

It did not name the officials but said it was considering further action against those responsible for the current violence.—Reuters

Kennedy's dolphin hunt tweet reflects US position

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — A recent message posted online by Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy expressing opposition to dolphin hunting in the country reflected Washington's stance, a US government spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

The fishing in the traditional whaling town of Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan, in which fishermen catch dolphins after driving them into a cove, has stirred controversy, especially after a US documentary depicting the dolphin hunt won an Oscar in 2010.

"The US does remain committed to the global moratorium on commercial whaling and we are concerned with both the sustainability and the humanness of the Japanese dolphin hunts," State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters.

"The Ambassador was expressing our view that we've made public for a long time," Harf said in a teleconference call. "We have discussed our concerns directly with Japan," Harf also said, without going into details such as levels of the diplomatic conversations.—Kyodo News

China stresses political solution to Syria crisis

MONTREUX, (Switzerland), 22 Jan — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday reiterated China's stance for a political settlement of the Syrian issue, calling for continued political efforts to keep the negotiations going.

Wang made the remarks while discussing with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov Tuesday night about the peace talks on Syria, known as the Geneva II conference.

The peace conference was initiated by Washington and Moscow in May and will start Wednesday in the Swiss city of Montreux to seek the establishment of a transitional governing body in Syria to lead the country out of a protracted

conflict that broke out in March 2011. China hoped that the negotiations were not just launched, but, more importantly, pushed forward, Wang said, adding that his country put forward on Monday five principles for a political settlement of the Syrian issue.

Both delegations of the Syrian government and opposition arrived in Geneva, Switzerland Tuesday evening for the conference so as to embark on a dialogue for the first time since the eruption of their conflict.

Wang said the most pressing task now was to realize a cease-fire and stop violence as soon as possible.

The Chinese foreign minister also stressed the



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) meets with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Montreux, Switzerland, on 21 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

importance of reaching consensus on a framework for peace talks and establish a follow-up mechanism so as to keep the dialogue, negotiations and other political efforts going forward.

Lavrov said that the situation in Syria was very complicated, and the only way out of the crisis was to nudge the Syrian govern-

ment and the opposition to come to the negotiating table, and reach some consensus on their country's future.

Lavrov reiterated that Russia and China shared the same stance on a political solution to the Syria conflict, calling on the two sides to continue their close communication.—Xinhua

Nepal's newly elected lawmakers sworn in

KATHMANDU, 22 Jan—Nepal's newly elected 575 lawmakers were sworn in Tuesday by the eldest lawmaker Surya Bahadur Thapa, the parliament secretariat said.

Thapa himself was sworn in as assembly chair on Monday by President Ram Baran Yadav.

The formal session of the assembly will convene on Wednesday.

The lawmakers were elected 19 November. The assembly is convening more than two months after the election because of procedural hurdles caused by confusion over whether the president or the chairman of interim government should call the meeting.

Earlier this month, President Yadav entrusted interim government chairman Khil Raj Regmi with the responsibility.

The assembly is tasked with drawing up a new constitution. A previous assembly elected in 2008 failed to achieve the task. It was dissolved in May 2012.

An additional 26 lawmakers in the 601-member assembly will be nominated by the new government.

Kyodo News

Pakistan under pressure for tough action against Taliban after deadly attacks

ISLAMABAD, 22 Jan — The latest wave of militant attacks in Pakistan has led to calls on the government to launch a major offensive against the Pakistani Taliban in the restive North Waziristan tribal region, their last stronghold.

A Taliban suicide car bomber hit a convoy of security forces in the northwestern Bannu District, killing 22 soldiers and injuring 30 others on Sunday. A day later, a Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up near a checkpoint jointly manned by police and army close to the army's headquarters in Rawalpindi, killing six soldiers and seven civilians.

The Taliban also declared war on the media and killed three staffers of a major media group in the port city of Karachi last week.

Taliban spokesman Shahidullah Shahid quickly claimed responsibility for all

recent attacks and vowed to continue attacks.

The recent attacks have prompted widespread anger and calls for a decisive action against the Taliban in North Waziristan where they are believed to be planning attacks. The tribal region bordering Afghanistan has also been the focus of the US drone strikes as Americans say the militants use North Waziristan as launching pad for cross-border attacks into Afghanistan.

Opposition senators joined hands on Monday to press the government for a major push against Taliban. Senators from three major opposition groups — Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) criticized the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for inaction and demand-

ed a major military operation against Taliban. The government, which had earlier been in favour of peace talks with the Taliban, is now in a fix as there is no let up in terror attacks. The Taliban leaders are unwilling to clearly accept the dialogue offer and have rejected calls for a halt to their attacks.

Nawaz Sharif, after assuming office in June 2013, had announced to pursue peace talks with the Taliban to end the bloodshed but the process was derailed at the start by US drone strike in November last year which killed the Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud.

The Taliban retaliation spoiled atmosphere for any peace dialogue at least in the near future as support for a possible major military action ran high. Some Islamic groups however still insist on peace process.

Xinhua



Men brave cold waters in the town of Mihama, Fukui Prefecture, participating in the traditional in-the-water tug-of-war known as "sui-chu tsunahiki" on 19 Jan, 2014, to pray for a good haul for the year. KYODO NEWS

Aging Fukushima Daiichi reactor can be safely offline for 10 more yrs

TOKYO, 22 Jan—The Nuclear Regulation Authority on Wednesday confirmed that one of the aging reactors at Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi plant can remain offline safely for another 10 years, after assessing the deterioration level of related equipment and the impact of the March 2011 natural disasters.

The Fukushima Daiichi plant is located about 12 kilometres south of the Fukushima Daiichi plant, which saw three of its reactors suffer meltdowns due to the loss of their cooling functions following a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. The Nos 1, 2, 4 reactors at the Daiichi plant also lost their cooling functions temporarily, but achieved a stable state of cold shutdown. TEPCO filed for the NRA's assess-

ment of the No 2 reactor because it first started operating in February 1984.

In Japan, utilities are required to check the deterioration level of reactors before their operation period exceeds 30 years and seek the NRA's approval.

The assessment on the No 2 reactor was carried out on the assumption that it will remain in a state of cold shutdown. The reactor will have to undergo a different safety assessment process if it is to resume operation.

All of the nuclear reactors in Japan are offline amid safety concerns in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster. In order to be allowed to resume operation, reactors must first satisfy a set of new safety requirements introduced in July.—Kyodo News



Rubble believed to be from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, known as the Atomic Bomb Dome (seen in background), is salvaged from a nearby river by crane with support from Hiroshima University on 22 Jan, 2014. KYODO NEWS

Rubble from Hiroshima Peace Memorial salvaged from river

HIROSHIMA, 22 Jan—Rubble believed to be from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, known as the Atomic Bomb Dome, was salvaged from a nearby river Wednesday by a crane with support from Hiroshima University.

Rebun Kayo, a 35-year-old graduate student at Hiroshima University, discovered last June granite believed to have been used for the building registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Two pieces of granite stone were recovered from the Motoyasu River in front of the dome. The larger piece measures 110 by 55 centimeters and weighs close to 300 kilograms, ac-

cording to Kayo. The stone is thought to have been used for the eaves on the building's third floor.

In 1996, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated the dome, the only structure left standing in the area where the atomic bomb exploded on 6 Aug, 1945, as a World Heritage site.

Many victims of the US atomic bombing died in the Motoyasu River after searching for water to quench their thirst caused by the blast. "I found these stone pieces, feeling as if I were gathering ashes of those perished," said Kayo. "I want many people to come and touch them."—Kyodo News

WORLD

Japan Post's new education insurance to receive approval

TOKYO, 22 Jan — The Japanese government is set to give Japan Post Insurance Co approval to launch a new education insurance product, one and a half year after receiving an application, informed sources said on Wednesday.

The Financial Services Agency and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will endorse the new educational endowment insurance by the end of this month, allowing the company to launch it before the new school year begins in April, according to the

sources.

The move comes after Washington has apparently eased concern over Japan's insurance market following an expansion of business collaboration between Japan Post Insurance and American Family Life Assurance Co, or Aflac.

Japan's insurance sector is one of the key topics of discussion in bilateral talks between Tokyo and Washington under the envisioned Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade arrangement, but the issue has not been discussed intensively

since the collaboration between the insurance unit of the state-owned Japan Post group and the US-based insurer was announced last July.

Japan Post Insurance, a wholly owned unit of Japan Post Holdings Co., applied for the new insurance product in September 2012 for sales to commence by April 2013.

However, the government froze the screening of the application after the insurer's nonpayment scandal involving 100,000 outstanding policies had been

revealed.

The revised education insurance plan will be more savings-oriented than its existing education insurance. Similar products by other insurers have been popular, and the approval suspension has been dragging down the sales of Japan Post Insurance.

Kyodo News



Israeli President Shimon Peres (front L) and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (front R) walk on the red carpet into the President's residence in Jerusalem, on 21 Jan, 2014. — XINHUA

Croatian supreme court rejects former intelligence chief's appeal against extradition

ZAGREB, 22 Jan — The Croatian Supreme Court on Tuesday turned down an appeal by former intelligence chief against his extradition to Germany.

Josip Perkovic, a Croatian who was a ranking Yugoslav secret service official in 1980s and set up the Croatian intelligence after its independence from former Yugoslavia, has been wanted by Germany since 2005 for alleged involvement in the murder of a Croatian dissident in 1983 in Germany.

The Supreme Court's

ruling paves the way for extradition of Perkovic and he would be handed over to Germany within 10 days.

But Perkovic's attorney said they would file a complaint before the Constitutional Court to demand his extradition be delayed.

Perkovic's case caused disputes last autumn between Croatia and the European Union (EU), which claimed the country changed its laws a few days before it became an EU member on 1 July, 2013 and effectively prevented Perkovic's extradition.

The European Commission even tried to impose sanctions against Croatia, claiming its amended law, which limited extradition of suspected criminals, failed to comply with EU legislation.

Under pressure Croatia changed the law back in October, paving the way for Perkovic's arrest on 1 January.

A Zagreb court on 8 January ruled he should be extradited to Germany on the basis of a European arrest warrant.

Xinhua



Workers prepare box lunches in an aseptic workshop of Qingdao CRH (China Railway High-speed) catering company in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 21 Jan, 2014. A series of box lunches selling for 15 yuan (2.48 US dollars) to 55 yuan (9.09 US dollars) were put on the market to meet passengers' demands.

XINHUA

Teens rescue children, pregnant woman from Sydney unit fire

SYDNEY, 22 Jan — Three Australian teenagers have been praised after rescuing a heavily pregnant woman and her three children during a unit fire in Sydney's west, the New South Wales Police said on Wednesday.

The girls, aged 12, 13 and 15, were walking along Popenetta Road, Blackett at around 5 pm (local time)

on Tuesday when they noticed a unit was on fire.

Two of the girls ran to the woman's unit to help her and her three children out of the unit safely while the other girl called emergency services, police said.

The blaze was later extinguished by fire crews and the pregnant woman checked at the scene by am-

balance paramedics.

Another woman who was found in the back yard of the premises was taken to Blacktown Hospital for assessment, police said.

The three girls are expected to be nominated for an award by police in recognition of their bravery.

Police are investigating the cause of the fire.

Xinhua

Australia rejects claims that navy mistreated asylum seekers

SYDNEY, 22 Jan — Australia on Wednesday rejected claims by a group of asylum seekers that they were beaten and suffered burns while being returned to Indonesia by the Australian navy under a policy that has strained ties between the neighbours.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Tuesday aired video of asylum seekers getting treatment for burns they said were caused by Navy personnel forcing them to hold onto hot pipes coming out of the boat's engine while it was being towed back to Indonesian waters.

Immigration Minister

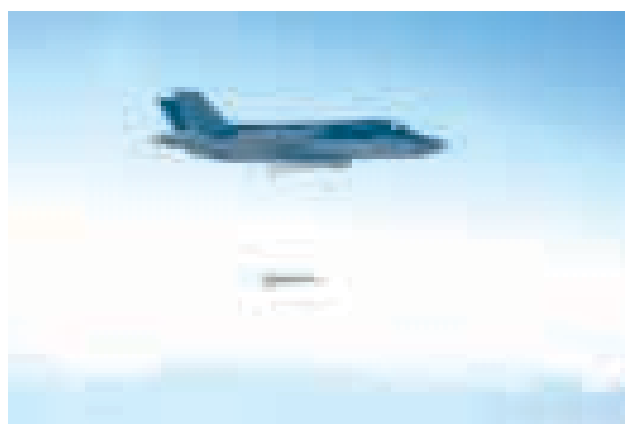
Scott Morrison lashed out at the media for reporting what he called "unsubstantiated allegations" and said that he would conduct no investigation into the incident as he accepted the word of navy personnel.

"The Australian government is not going to put up with people sledging the Australian navy," he told reporters in Sydney. "I've been given assurances about their conduct and I believe those assurances because I believe in those individuals." Indonesian police confirmed that a group of asylum seekers had required treatment for severe burns on their hands

after they were picked up in Indonesian waters on 6 January. "I received a report from police in Kupang that they said they were burned because they were forced to hold on to the boat engine," Agus Barnas, spokesman for the coordinating ministry of legal, political and security affairs, told Reuters.

"They said they were forced by the Australians. We are trying to find out more." Prime Minister Tony Abbott's conservative government came to power partly because of its tough campaign against asylum seekers and he insists it will not reverse course despite public pressure.—Reuters

Engineer charged with trying to send Iran US fighter jet secrets



A US Marine Corps F-35B short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) fighter jet drops a laser-guided bomb during its first guided weapons release test at Edwards Air Force Base, California on 29 Oct, 2013.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 22 Jan — A former engineer for defense contractors has been indicted on charges that he tried to send Iran secret details on the US Air Force's F-35 joint strike fighter programme, the office of the US Attorney for Connecticut said on Tuesday.

The accused man, Mozaffar Khazaei, a dual US and Iranian citizen,

was arrested on 9 January at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, after he flew from Indianapolis to Newark, with Teheran as his final destination, prosecutors said.

Khazaei, who moved recently from Connecticut to Indianapolis, was charged with two counts of transporting, transmitting and transferring in in-

terstate commerce goods obtained by theft, conversion or fraud, according to the indictment.

He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Federal agents began investigating Khazaei, 59, in November when officers with US Customs and Border Protection inspected a shipment of boxes he sent by truck from Connecticut to a freight forwarding company in Long Beach, California, prosecutors said.

The shipment, listed as containing household goods, actually held boxes of documents with sensitive technical manuals, specification sheets and other material relating to the F-35 programme, and it was intended for shipment to Iran, prosecutors said. Khazaei has been detained in New Jersey pending his transportation to Connecticut to face charges. He has not yet been arraigned in the case.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Rolls-Royce expected to make a public offer on Wartsila

HELSINKI, 22 Jan — British engineering company Rolls-Royce (RR.L) is expected to make a public offer on the Finnish ship and power plant engine maker Wartsila (WRTIV.HE), a Finnish newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing unnamed investors. Wartsila declined to comment on the report and Rolls-Royce did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Earlier this month, the companies said Rolls-Royce had made a preliminary approach to Wartsila, but the talks ended without a deal. Wartsila clarified to *Reuters* that the British company had been interested in buying its entire business. According to the report by *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper, investors

said Rolls-Royce has been planning to pay at least 50 euros per Wartsila share, which would value the company at around 9.9 billion euros (\$13.4 billion). The stock closed at 40.68 euros on Monday.

By buying Wartsila, Rolls-Royce — the

world's second-largest aircraft engine maker — would strengthen its marine business, which lowered its profit guidance in November. Wartsila's largest owner, with a stake of 22 percent, is a joint venture of Fiskars (FIS1V.HE), which is backed by Finland's Ehrnrooth family, and Investor AB (INVEB.ST), the investment arm of Sweden's Wallenberg family. —*Reuters*



Rolls-Royce®

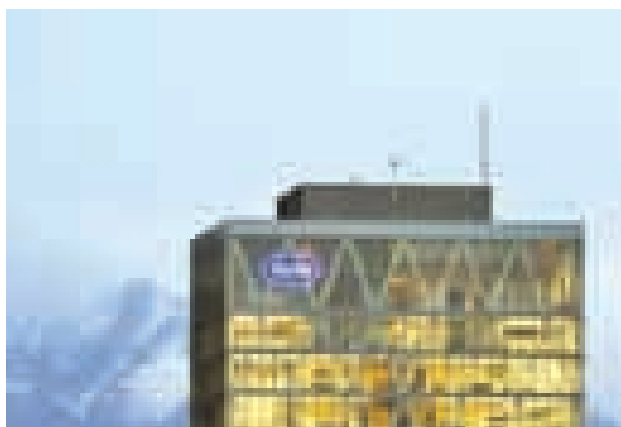
Roche's schizophrenia drug misses goal in two late-stage trials

ZURICH, 22 Jan — An experimental Roche drug designed to treat the “negative symptoms” of schizophrenia failed to meet its main goal in two late-stage studies, dealing a blow to the Swiss drugmaker's research hopes in the risky area of brain science. Results of two Phase III trials found bitopertin in combination with antipsychotic therapy did not significantly reduce negative symptoms after 24 weeks of treatment compared with placebo. A third late-stage study is on-

going.

Roughly 26 million people are affected by schizophrenia worldwide, but current treatment options for the disorder's negative symptoms — which include social withdrawal, lack of motivation and reduced emotional reactivity — are limited. “These results are disappointing for people with negative symptoms because more effective treatments are needed for these debilitating effects of schizophrenia,” said Sandra Horning, Roche's

chief medical officer and global head of product development. —*Reuters*



The logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is seen at a plant in the central Swiss village of Rotkreuz on 6 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

SAP pushes back profit goal to fund cloud growth

WALLDORF, (Germany), 22 Jan — German business software maker SAP has pushed back its profit target as it makes further investments in its cloud business to keep up with a fast-growing market. SAP said on Tuesday its operating margin goal of 35 percent would now be reached in 2017 instead of 2015.

Its shares were indicated down 1.1 percent before the market open, while Germany's blue-chip DAX index was seen 0.4 percent higher.

SAP and rivals such as IBM and Oracle are racing to meet surging demand for web-based software products, which allow clients to reduce costs by ditching bulky local servers for network-based software and storage in remote data centres.

The fast-growing cloud business would create a

more predictable stream of revenue, SAP said, but additional investments were needed. The global cloud market is currently estimated to be worth \$131 billion by research firm Gartner. SAP in recent years has splashed out \$7.7 billion to buy internet-based computing companies Ariba and SuccessFactors.

SAP's co-Chief Executive Bill McDermott told reporters he did not exclude more acquisitions to reach the firm's goals. “When an acquisition makes sense, we will do it,” he said, declining to elaborate.

The company expects total revenues to reach at least 22 billion euros (\$29.8 billion) by 2017, of which 3-3.5 billion is expected to come from the cloud business. SAP published preliminary results on 10 January.

Reuters

Pluristem stem cell trial to treat muscle injury meets main goal

TEL AVIV, 2 Jan — Pluristem Therapeutics Inc said results from its early/mid-stage clinical trial indicated its placenta-derived stem cells for the treatment of muscle injury were safe and provided evidence the cells might be effective in treating orthopedic injuries. “Patients treated with PLX-PAD had a greater im-

proved change of maximal voluntary muscle contraction force than the placebo group,” Israel-based Pluristem said in a statement on Tuesday.

The trial was conducted at the Orthopedic Clinic of the Charite University Medical School under the auspices of the Paul-Ehrlich-Institute, Germany's

health authority. “This was a very important study not only for Pluristem but for the cell therapy industry in general,” Pluristem chief executive Zami Aberman said. “Based on these results, we intend to move forward with implementing our strategy towards using PLX cells in orthopedic indications and muscle

trauma.”

The injured muscle studied was the gluteus medius muscle in the buttock. Total hip replacement surgery via the standard transgluteal approach necessitates injury of the gluteus medius muscle, and post-operative healing is crucial for joint stability and function. —*Reuters*

Japan's ANA pulls “big nose” TV ad after online furor

TOKYO, 22 Jan — Japan's largest carrier All Nippon Airways said on Tuesday it was pulling a TV advertisement featuring a Japanese actor in a large false nose and blonde wig after it was criticized online for having racist overtones. The ad, which is in English with Japanese subtitles, promotes ANA's expanded international flight schedule from Tokyo's Haneda Airport. Japan, host of the 2020 Summer Olympics, is trying to attract more tourists amid a sharp rise in visitors over the last year,

particularly from Asia.

In the ad, which began airing on 18 Jan, two men in ANA pilot uniforms chat about how they will now be heading off to new destinations such as Hanoi and Vancouver. “Let's change the image of Japanese!” one says, and turns to his companion, who now wears a large fake nose and a brassy blond wig, in line with Japanese stereotypes about Europeans. “Of course,” he replies. In another version of the ad, one man surprises his companion by offering to hug him. Public displays

of affection, especially between men, are uncommon in Japan. The ad unleashed a torrent of mostly negative comments on ANA's Facebook page, with some people saying they had cancelled their loyalty cards. Other online commentators, however, said they liked the commercial while some said it was simply strange, rather than racist. ANA apologized for the ad on its Facebook page, and Japanese media said the company had also apologized to customers who called in to complain. —*Reuters*



Four All Nippon Airways' (ANA) Boeing Co's 787 Dreamliner planes (top) are seen behind another ANA plane at Haneda Airport in Tokyo on 29 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Controversial arctic crusader claims prestigious science prize

SYDNEY, 22 Jan — Emerging from an ice-locked Christmas while the world watched and waited, an Australian scientist and researcher with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) was announced on Wednesday as the winner of the prestigious Australian Academy of Science prize for his work in climate change science.

After finding himself in the centre of both an international media and localized arctic storm, Professor Chris Turney will be a controversial winner of the honourific award, presented

by the Australian Academy of Science, to celebrate researchers who have made outstanding contributions to their field. Professor Turney has been awarded the 2014 Frederick White Prize for his research on understanding past and present climate change and on improving climate change models.

The energetic Turney, an Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate Fellow in the UNSW Climate Change Research Centre, was also the now internationally famous (or infamous) leader of the ill-

fated expedition to Antarctica that ended with a international ice-breakers also becoming locked in the ice. It was Professor Turney's calm reports that became the very human voice of unseen climate impacts. "In this little haven of civilization surrounded by a chaotic jumble of white to the horizon, everyone is taking stock of being locked in sea ice for 10 days," he wrote during the ordeal.

"We are all incredibly grateful for the bravery of our Russian crew, the courage of Captain Jianzhong Wang on the Chinese ice-breaker Xue Long and the wonderful perseverance of the Australian icebreaker Aurora Australis." The Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) set out to retrace the journey of Douglas Mawson using the Russian ship Akademik Shokalskiy.

The six-week expedition was split into two legs,

the first focusing on the New Zealand sub-antarctic, the second the Southern Ocean and the immediate area around Mawson's Huts at Commonwealth Bay.

As the expedition traversed the Southern Ocean, oceanographic measurements were made, weather conditions recorded, trawls of the surface taken and bird counts noted; while on the sub-antarctic islands, teams cored trees, dug peat sections, investigated bird burrows and underwater surveys were made in the shallows.

Many were firsts for the region. When criticized for single-handedly dragging the world into an icy Antarctic Christmas, Professor Turney responded, "In spite of the situation we found ourselves in, the AAE had a conversation with the public about science, exploration and (Douglas) Mawson." —Xinhua



Rescuers hopeful stranded whales safely at sea in New Zealand

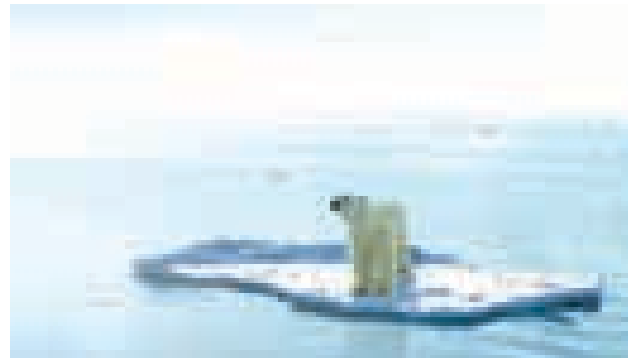
WELLINGTON, 22 Jan — Conservation officials were hopeful on Tuesday that most of a pod of 46 stranded pilot whales had made it out to sea after finding one dead animal on the coast at the top of New Zealand's South Island.

Department of Conservation (DOC) rangers have found the dead whale on Farewell Spit and were still checking beaches in the area for any sign of the other 45 pilot whales that were refloated on Monday. When rescuers left the Farewell Spit area late Monday, the whales had been milling in

shallow water offshore for several hours, said a DOC statement. The whales are the survivors of a pod of 71 that began stranding on Saturday.

Efforts to refloat them Saturday and Sunday ended with the whales beaching again further along the coast. It is the third mass stranding on Farewell Spit in less than two weeks. Twelve pilot whales died and DOC staff euthanized another 27 after a mass stranding on 6 January. Another nine pilot whales were euthanized and five died after a second mass stranding on 14 January.

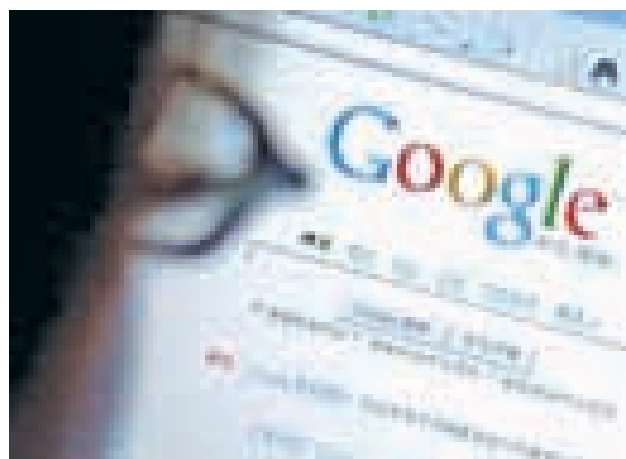
Xinhua



China Internet outage could have been hacking attack

SHANGHAI, 22 Jan — A major Internet outage in China on Tuesday that rerouted users to the US website of a company which helps people get around Beijing's censorship may have been due to a hacking attack, the official Xinhua news service reported. The state-run China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) said in a microblog post that the outage, which lasted for several hours, was due to a malfunction in China's top-level domain name root servers on Tuesday afternoon.

Chinese Internet users were rerouted to a US-based website run by Dynamic Internet Technology, a company that sells anti-censorship web services tailored for Chinese users, including a product that enables the retrieval of microblog posts deleted by Chinese censors. Dynamic Internet Technol-



A Chinese Internet user browses for information on the popular search engine Google in Beijing on 25 Jan, 2006.—REUTERS

ogy did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The company website lists the Epoch Times, a publication produced by the Falun Gong religious sect which is banned in China, as a client.

Other clients include Voice of America and Hu-

man Rights in China.

It is still unclear as to exactly what happened to cause the outage. The Xinhua report quoted Chinese security experts saying the outage could have been exploited by hackers, or could have been the result of a hacking attack.

Reuters

Apple gets reprieve from e-book monitor's oversight

NEW YORK, 22 Jan — A US appeals court gave Apple Inc a reprieve from an external monitor appointed to oversee its compliance with antitrust laws after the company had been found liable last July for conspiring to raise e-book prices. The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in New York on Tuesday granted Apple a hearing on whether to stop the monitor, Michael Bromwich, from doing his job while the company pursues a formal appeal, which could last several months.

In granting an "administrative stay," the 2nd Circuit said a three-judge panel would hear Apple's motion for a stay pending appeal as soon as possible. The US Department of Justice did not oppose the short stay but will fight Apple's effort to get rid of the monitor or else disqualify Bromwich. It has until 24 January to

file opposition papers. Apple has complained that Bromwich has been too intrusive, including by seeking interviews with top executives and board members, and has been charging an inflated \$1,100 per hour for his services to rack up high fees.

The Cupertino, California-based maker of the iPad, iPod and iPhone has said Bromwich's activities

could interfere with its ability to develop new products. Courts often appoint monitors in litigation to ensure that companies comply with the law. But Apple has said US District Judge Denise Cote in Manhattan, who in a nonjury trial found the company liable for a price-fixing conspiracy with five major publishers, improperly granted Bromwich too much power." —Reuters



A woman looks at the screen of her mobile phone in front of an Apple logo outside its store in downtown Shanghai on 10 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Ancient fossil shows new link in dolphin evolution: New Zealand scientists

WELLINGTON, 22 Jan — New Zealand scientists said on Wednesday have identified a previously unknown type of fossil dolphin that could be the ancestor of modern dolphins and toothed whales. Papahu taitapu, the first of its kind ever found, lived 19 million to 22 million years ago, and

is one of the few dolphins to be reported globally dating to the start of the Miocene epoch, according to University of Otago researchers.

Judging from the size of its skull, Papahu was about 2 metres long, roughly the size of a common dolphin, and like most living dolphins, it had many simple



conical teeth, but its head was probably a bit wider, and not as high-domed, Dr Gabriel Aguirre said in a statement.

It lived at a time of global warmth, in shallow seas around Zealandia, the continental fragment that New Zealand rests upon, along with ancient penguins

and baleen whales.

The skull, one jaw, and a few other parts of Papahu taitapu were found in marine sedimentary rocks in the northern South Island, and only a single specimen had been found so far. "Our study of structures of the skull and earbone suggest that Papahu could make and

use high frequency sound to navigate and detect prey in murky water. They probably also used sound to communicate with each other," said Aguirre. Features of the Papahu skull showed it was distinct from all previously-reported fossils, Professor Ewan Fordyce said in the statement.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 23 January, 2014

Tapping tech

Myanmar is a country rising from ashes. It has many tasks to do to become fully revitalized, but it still has many latecomer's advantages in hands. These advantages include technology. We are building the country's e-government system from scratch after a series of attempts in vain.

We have got a number of useful web sites and web portals from government agencies over the past few years. But it is still miles away from achieving e-government network. We need specific IT solutions for procedures of the entire government. It'll cut the red tape, boost the administration mechanism and promote the easy access to information among the public.

The government mechanism still excessively relies on papers. Fire outbreaks and other disasters could easily destroy them. It is costly, consumes much space and promotes red tape.

There is a joke about record keeping practices at the offices, rather thought to be a true event in Myanmar. A clerk asked for permission from his superior to destroy old papers seemed useless. His superior replied, "Make one new copy and go ahead!" There are a number of international organizations helping the government to establish the e-government system. Some pilot projects have been initiated. Although we are latecomer to the e-government effort, we still have a chance to learn from experiences of the other countries. All we need is changing our mindset.

Public announcement for remonstrance of changing political party's name

Chin National Party headquartered at No. 120, Room (52) of Thukha Hline Housing on Insein Road in Hline Township, Yangon Region, registered at the Union Election Commission as a political party under the Article 9 of Political Parties Registration Law, submitted its application to change its name as Chin National Democratic Party to the Union Election Commission on 16-1-2014.

It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who wants to remonstrate about the name "Chin National Democratic Party", they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Union Election Commission



By law, no right to review...

(from page 16)

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population, said the ministry had already drawn plans to upgrade the citizenship scrutiny cards to smart cards. However, it will take time to put the records on papers to digital-database and the ministry is making strenuous efforts to be able to issue smart cards simultaneously across the country, the deputy minister said.

U Tin Maung of Chanmyathazi Township asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to stop smuggling cattle. Regarding the question, Brig-Gen

Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, said draught cattle could be transported with seal of approval from local authority and departments concerned and the cattle could be on sales at markets with approval for ownership of the cattle from local authority. Ministry of Commerce has issued license for trading goats and other cattle except draught cattle with recommendations of Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries, the deputy minister said.

Rakhine State Chief Minister looks into Maungdaw violence

MAUNGDAW, 22 Jan—Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin has called for cooperation of local people in Ducheertan Village, Rakhine State, where police were attacked by mobs, to discover the police sergeant who went missing after the violence.

During his visit to the area, the chief minister looked into the recent violence and told the people about the false news published and aired by foreign media that children and women were killed in the violence.

At the Gawduthara Village, he met with villagers who left Ducheertan Village.

During the meeting, the villagers told him that they did not hear that Rakhane people killed children and women.

Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko clarified that some villagers are under interrogation and they would be freed if they were found no guilty.

A Mawlawi from Gawduthara Village said he did not see any killing people.

Police sergeant...

(from page 16)

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Retreat) in Bagan that the news stories are wholly and totally wrong.



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and party meet local people.

MNA

ple.

During the meeting, Rakhine State Hluttaw representative U Aung Myo Min, Rakhine State Hluttaw representative of Buthidaung Township Dr Bawshi Ahmed, Barbara Babista, coordinator of OCHA and Roka Kodo, resident representative of UNHCR, who visited there along with the

chief minister, also talked to the villagers and investigated the situation.

They also inspected the area where police were attacked by mobs while patrolling and the place where uniforms of the police sergeant who still went missing were found.

In the evening, the representatives from UNHCR

violence. Moreover, A diplomat of the US Embassy in Myanmar came to the Ministry of Home Affairs and said during a discussion on the role of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Myanmar's reform process that the international community is watching the incident occurred in Rakhine State; they were informed that a police member was killed in an incident occurred in Maungdaw last week; and transparent and independent investigations will be conducted in cooperation with UN agencies as they received further information from INGOs that civilian deaths occurred there.

The real incident was

Bogyoke Aung San Market in Yangon to business men.

According to the deputy minister, Dagon Township Cooperative Syndicate which hired the two halls from Yangon City Development Committee, have sold out them to the Super World Cooperative Ltd to be able to pay off their debts to the Ministry Cooperatives with the decision of the Procurement Committee formed by the Ministry of Cooperatives. In 2001, Yangon City Development Committee has allowed the two directors to pay their registration fee for hiring the two halls by their names to the committee.—MNA

and OCHA met with authority at Maungdaw District Administration Office.

Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko and Police Col Nay Myo of Rakhine State Police Force answered the questions raised by representatives from UNHCR and OCHA.

Rakhine State IPRD

four police members led by Police Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein patrolled Kinnchaung village together with U Maung Ba Tun, head of Khayay Myaing village, on 13 January, 2014. They continued the patrol together with U Aung Than, 10-household head, U Maung Thein Hla and U Than Tun Oo, Du Chee Yar Tan village-tract clerk. On their arrival at Ducheertan (middle) village at about 9.30 pm, they found a group of Bengalis, numbering about 20, sitting around a fire in front of shops. Although the patrol made them known that they were police and members of village

(See page 9)

Departmental officials and police officer meet local people and Bengali village administrative officials in Maungdaw Township GAD Office on 20 January.—MNA

Foreign Heads of State/Government send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Mr. Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jabar Al Sabah Amir of State of Kuwait Excellency,

I would like to convey my sincere felicitations to His Excellency on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

With my best wishes for Your Excellency's continued good health and wellbeing and for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its friendly people progress and prosperity.

Please accept my sincere appreciation.

From Mr Giorgi Margvelashvili President of Georgia Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of Georgia, allow me to extend to you my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I believe that in the coming years bilateral relations between Georgia and Myanmar will be further enhanced in the spirit of mutual respect, trust and amity.

Excellency, please accept the assurance of my highest consideration along with wishes for peace, security and prosperity to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Janos Ader President of the Republic of Hungary Your Excellency,

On the solemn occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar I would like to convey my best wishes and warmest congratulations to Your Excellency and to the friendly people of your country.

I follow with great interest the reforms taking place in Myanmar in many areas including the economy, the political structure and human rights, as well as the development of bilateral relations between Hungary and Myanmar.

I am convinced that our joint efforts will further strengthen these mutually beneficial ties, reflecting the potentials and opportunities of our countries.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Police sergeant...

(from page 8)

administration, the group of Bengalis started throwing stones at the patrol, calling others to join them. A group of about 100 villagers armed with knives and sticks appeared and tried to attack the patrol, shouting that they would kill police as well as village administration members. As it was night and the crowd became a larger mob, the patrol decided not to confront the mob. Police Private Min Yan Naing, U Maung Ba Tun, U Aung Than, U Than Tun and U Maung Thein Hla fled the scene heading for a concrete road while Police Privates Min Min Khaing and Min Zaw for Khayay Myaing village. Police Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein with his firearm was left in the middle of the mob. Police members escaping the mob attack said they heard two shots from the vil-

lage. They arrived back the police outpost at about 11 pm and reported the incident to Maungtaw Myoma police station by phone. Shortly after getting the phone report, police members accompanied by a local battalion marched to Ducheertan village and arrived there at about 12 midnight. They blocked some places and launched search for the missing police member. While arrival of search groups at the western part of the village, a 500-strong mob armed with knives and sticks appeared and moved forwards, shouting abuse. As the mob reached a spot, 50 yards from the search groups, eight warning shots were fired in order to avoid possible dangers. The mob fled the scene, heading for south of the village.

Blood stained pieces of uniform, belt, whistle, pieces of equipment and a pair of

From Jigme Khesar King of Bhutan Your Excellency,

It gives me the greatest pleasure to convey my warm felicitations to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar on the celebration of your Independence Day.

Allow me to express my best wishes for Your Excellency's wellbeing and happiness, and the peace and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom President of the Republic of Maldives Your Excellency,

The Government and people of the Maldives and I take great pleasure in conveying warm felicitations and good wishes to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Myanmar on the occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar.

Please also accept my best wishes for the progress, welfare and harmony of the people of Myanmar.

From Mr. Alexander Lukashenko President of the Republic of Belarus Your Excellency,

On behalf of the People of the Republic of Belarus and on my own part I congratulate You and the People of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with the National holiday—the Independence Day.

Mutual respect and friendship between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar assures of perspective development of bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

Taking the opportunity, I would like confirm to Your Excellency the invitation to visit the Republic of Belarus at anytime of Your convenience, I am confident that Your visit to Belarus will start a new page in Belarusian-Myanmar relations.

I wish You sound health, prosperity and success.

Please, accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

From Mr Giorgi Margvelashvili President of Georgia Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of Georgia, allow me to extend to you my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar.

I believe that in the coming years bilateral relations between Georgia and Myanmar will be further enhanced in the spirit of mutual respect, trust and amity.

Excellency, please accept the assurance of my highest consideration along with wishes for peace, security and prosperity to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr. Willem-Alexander R. King of the Kingdom of Netherlands Excellency,

On the occasion of your National Day I extend to Your Excellency my congratulations and my best wishes for the well-being of the people of Myanmar.

From Mr. Ollanta Humala Tasso President of the Republic of Peru Your Excellency,

I have the honor to address Your Excellency in order to express, on behalf the Government and the people of Peru, and on my own, the warmest congratulations on the occasion of the commemoration of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

While expressing my best wishes for the wellbeing and prosperity of your noble people, I would like to reiterate the will of my Government to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation that unite our two countries.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

From Mr. Nawwaf Al Ahmad Al Jabar Al Sabah Crown Prince of State of Kuwait Excellency,

I would like to convey my sincere felicitations to His Excellency on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

With my best wishes for Your Excellency's continued good health and wellbeing and for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its friendly people progress and prosperity.

Please accept my sincere appreciation.

From Mr. Mikhail Myasnikovich Prime Minister of the Republic of Belaurus Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Belarus and on my own part I congratulate You with the National holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar—the Independence Day.

Particular importance is attached in our country to the strengthening of relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that with the joint efforts cooperation between our countries in political, economic, trade and other spheres will continue to expand dynamically.

Please, accept, Your Excellency, the wishes of sound health, happiness and prosperity as well as the assurance of my highest consideration.

U Tint Swai presents Credentials to President of Romania

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—U Tint Swai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Romania, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Traian Basescu, President of Romania, on 15 January 2014, in Bucharest.

MNA

boot were discovered near Ducheertan Village and in the garbage tank west of Ismai Mosque, in the cupboard of the Arabi School on 14 January. The authorities also found an empty magazine of the gun of Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein. So far, 16 suspects are being interrogated.

To take actions against the attack, the authorities met with 80 residents from Maungtaw and villages at Post-Primary School of Maungtaw Township on 19 January and 160 residents including departmental officials, Hluttaw representa-

tives and townsenders from Maungtaw at the Maungtaw Township General Administration Department on 20 January and clarified the planned attack by the mobs. After the clarification, one Mawlawi asked residents to cooperate with the police to find Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein and his arm. The mobs attacked the Myanmar Police Force while they were patrolling along with local authorities to provide community peace and security and they committed the criminal case. Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein is still missing with his

arm and ammunition.

Acting on tip-off, 19 people from Ducheertan Village involved in the criminal case and one of the main attackers is K Phike Dullah, 23, and he attended the training of the RSO in the neighbouring country. He arrived at the village 10 days before the attack and trained four to five friends for using gun. Abdul Muna who reentered Myanmar from Bangladesh and Jawbullah who had got two-year sentence for a criminal case led the attack. They planned to attack the police

force not to be able to carry out patrol in the area as criminals and those who reentered Myanmar from the neighbouring country are hiding there. According to tip-off, out of 19 attackers, 11 are living in exile in the neighbouring country currently and trying to win awards from the RSO for attacking the police. Myanmar Police Force has requested local people to cooperate with them to discovered Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein, his gun and ammunition and not to harm the rule of law.—MNA

Building of child care development centre opened in Gangaw



KYAUKHTU, 22 Jan—A ceremony to open the building of pre-primary school of Child Care Development Centre was held in Kyaukma Village of Kyaukhtu Sub-Township in Saw Township of Gangaw

District in Magway Region on 20 January.

Local authorities and Chairman of the school committee U Aung Zaw Myint and Project Officer U Myingt Hlaing (Save the Children) formally opened

the school building.

The education project officer handed documents related to the school building to the village administrator.

The trust fund of the school was constructed at a cost of K 3.3 million by the local people and Save the Children.

The building was constructed with contribution K 6 million by Save the Children and K 4.5 million by the local people. As of 2014-15 academic year, the school will admit school children from Kyauk-ma Village.

Kyemon-Sub-Township
IPRD



Head of Pyay District Directorate of Road Administration Daw Khin Hla Myint, officials and staff of Myanma Insurance extend the licences of 186 vehicles and issue licences to 600 new vehicles at Market 2 Ward in Paungde Township on 18 January.

KYEMON-TIN WIN ZAW (MINTHAGYI)

Midwifery, public health worker courses conclude in Hopong

HOPONG, 22 Jan—The midwifery six-month course and the public health worker one-month course concluded at Hopong Hospital in Hopong of Shan State on 20 January.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Tin Zaw Win explained the matters related to the courses.

Nurse Staff Officer Daw Hnin Wai of Shan State Health Department presented certificates to trainees of midwifery course and Chairman of the needy patients fund committee U Sai Hla Maung gave certificates to trainees through a trainees.

Next, Township

Administrator U Maung Maung presented first, second and third prizes to trainees of the midwifery course and Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin May Lin, first, second third to the public health worker course.

A total of 15 trainees from 15 villages of Hopong Township attended the midwifery course and took practical works at respective Health Department from 16 July to 17 January.

Altogether 15 trainees also attended the public health workers course.

Those courses were conducted with the assistance of GAVI.

Kyemon-Nan Oo Khan



National Objectives of 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014

- For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Fire drill exercised in DaikU Township

DAIKU, 22 Jan—A fire drill was performed at Phaungdawthi Market of DaikU Township Development Affairs Committee on 18 January.

The fire fighters and workers of Township DAC together with families of the market used the water taps, tanks, water bowser and fire truck and fire engines in fire drill.



It was supervised by Township Administrator U Kyaw Swa Aung, DAC Executive Officer and township level officials.

Kyemon-Nay Lin
(Nyaunglebin)

Farming workers enjoy job opportunities in cold season crops cultivation period

AMARAPURA, 22 Jan—Cold season crops and chrysanthemum plants are cultivated on the alluvial lands in Shwekyetyet Village-tract if Amarapura

Township, creating job opportunities for the local people.

The farm owners recruited the workers for their farms of flowery plantations.

Depending on the area of plantations, the owners called the workers from 10 to 20 daily. The workers weed, water, broadcast fertilizer and spray pesticide daily. The farm owners pay K 3500 per male worker and K 2500 per female workers that have to work at the farms from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

Moreover, farmland



owners recruit daily wage worker to nurture their farms of groundnut, maize, corn, bea, water melon and other

plantations in Shangalekyun and Shwekyetyet areas.—Kyemon-Nanda Min Lwin

Vocational courses opened in DaikU Tsp

DAIKU, 22 Jan—Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development opened the vocational courses in Shweindon Village of DaikU Township, Bago Region, on 20 January.

The courses are masonry, carpenter, fish

breeding and animal breeding courses, attended by 60 trainees.

The courses will last one month.

Departmental officials inspected equipment to be used in training courses.

The opening ceremony of the course was also attended by Bago Region

**PAY
YOUR
TAX**

Hluttaw representative U Min Aung and townselders.
Kyemon-Nay Lin
(Nyaunglebin)

REGIONAL

BOJ maintains ultraeasy monetary policy, FY 2015 price outlook

TOKYO, 22 Jan — The Bank of Japan decided on Wednesday to maintain its ultraeasy monetary policy and kept unchanged its consumer price outlook for fiscal 2015 at 1.9 percent, near its 2 percent inflation target aimed at beating deflation. The nine-member Policy Board unanimously decided that the central bank will continue with its large-scale monetary easing policy introduced in April, centering on doubling the monetary base and boosting the purchase of government bonds.

After reviewing its semiannual economic outlook issued in October, the BOJ slightly revised down its estimate for the nation's growth in fiscal 2014 to 1.4 percent from the 1.5 percent forecast in October, while keeping intact its growth estimates for this fiscal year at 2.7 percent and fiscal 2015 at 1.5 percent.

The bank retained its price outlook for the year ending March and fiscal 2014, expecting core consumer prices excluding fresh foods to rise 0.7 per-

cent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

The fiscal 2014 projection excludes the impact of three-percentage-point sales tax hike scheduled for next April. The move comes after the consumer price index excluding fresh foods climbed 1.2 percent in November from a year earlier.

It left unchanged its assessment of the domestic economy for the fourth straight month, saying in a statement that it has continued to "recover moderately," while noting an in-

crease in demand has been observed recently ahead of the consumption tax hike.

On the outlook, the BOJ said the domestic economy is "expected to continue a moderate recovery as a trend, while it will be affected by the front-loaded increase and subsequent decline in demand prior to and after the consumption tax hike," it said.

It said the year-on-year rate of increase in the consumer price index is likely to be around 1.25 percent for some time.

Kyodo News



Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda heads for the second day of a two-day policy meeting of the central bank at its head office in Tokyo on 22 Jan, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Singapore elevates status of lower courts

SINGAPORE, 22 Jan — Singapore is going to elevate the statues of its lower courts, with some changes passed on Subordinate Courts Bill mentioned in parliament, local paper the *Straits Times* said on Wednesday.

The lower courts, previously named the Subordinate Courts, will be re-named "State Courts."

The office of Chief District Judge will be elevated to the office of the "Presiding Judge of the State Courts," one held by a judge or judicial commissioner of the Supreme Court. At the same time, the amended bill also increases the minimum statutory requirement for a legally qualified person to be a magistrate and district judge from one year to three years, and five years to seven years respectively.

The changes reflect the primary role the lower courts play in the judicial system and the growing complexity of the cases before them, said Senior Minister of State for Law and Education Indranee Rajah on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Japan urges peaceful solution to Thai emergency

TOKYO, 22 Jan — The Japanese government on Wednesday called for a peaceful solution to the emergency situation in Thailand, where antigovernment protesters have confronted security forces.

"We are deeply concerned and watching closely," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a Press conference. "We hope violence will not be used and that the situation will be addressed peacefully through dialogue."

The government will

study possible measures to ensure the safety of Japanese citizens as well as the smooth operation of Japanese companies in the Southeast Asian country, the top government spokesman said.

On Tuesday, the Thai government declared a state of emergency in Bangkok and surrounding areas to deal with the protests that have stirred up violent attacks, ahead of the nation's general election scheduled early next month.

Kyodo News

No leap forward in improving inter-Korean ties

SEOUL, 22 Jan — South Korean Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl-jae said on Wednesday that there will be no leap forward in improving inter-Korean relations, referring to the recent peace call from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

"If there is any way to make the inter-Korean relations leap forward at a bound, (South Korea) will follow that way. But, I promise there would be no such a way in the south-north relations," Ryoo said at a forum held in central Seoul. Ryoo said it would be a mythology to believe that the inter-Korean ties can be improved by South Korea's epoch-making concessions, reiterating that the DPRK failed to keep its word on family reunions.

Seoul and Pyongyang originally planned to hold reunions of families

separated by the 1950-53 Korean War in late September last year, but Pyongyang abruptly delayed the reunions at the last minute.

Ryoo said if the DPRK follows through on what it promised and agreed upon, the two Koreas can reach another agreement, urging Pyongyang to accept Seoul's proposal to hold the

family reunions.

In her first New Year's Press conference, South Korean President Park Geun-hye proposed to resume the family reunion around the Lunar New Year's Day that falls on late January. Pyongyang rejected the proposal, saying that atmosphere should be created.

Reuters



South Korean army soldiers take part in an anti-terror drill in Seoul, South Korea, on 21 Jan, 2014.

XINHUA



A Spring Festival tea party is held for representatives of various ethnic groups to celebrate the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year in Beijing, capital of China, on 21 Jan, 2014. —XINHUA

Local legislative sessions stress "balanced development"

BEIJING, 22 Jan — Annual "two sessions" — meetings of local legislatures and local political advisors — kicked off in January across China.

Despite differences of economic and social situations from province to province, many local legislative sessions have topics in common.

Many local governments have lowered GDP goals for 2014 in pursuit of more balanced development. In days gone by it was all about GDP.

Shanghai Mayor Yang Xiong declared that in 2013, the city's GDP was expected to grow by 7.7 percent and fiscal revenue by 9.8 percent. In 2014, Shanghai plans to raise GDP by 7.5 percent and keep fiscal revenue increasing in step with economic growth.

Similarly, Liu Weiping, governor of Gansu in the northwest, also re-

duced GDP expectations from 12.1 percent growth in 2013 to 11 percent in 2014. Hebei and Fujian lowered growth goals by 0.5 percent.

According to central economic and urbanization work conferences last year, China plans steady, proactive forward progress in human-centered urbanization for 2014.

Urbanization through new construction work is the chosen route toward modernization, and is seen as offering a solution to rural problems. Gansu Province, for example will press on with development of the Silk Road economic belt.

Many local government reports reiterate the importance of quality urbanization and its potential to increase domestic demand, raise productivity and end the urban-rural duality.

Fighting smog also appears near the top many

of the government reports, much as in 2013, more than 100 big and medium cities in 25 regions were affected by smog. According to a five-year plan on air pollution, China will cut coal use, shut down polluters, promote cleaner production and cut the density of inhalable particulate matter.

In recent government reports, the environment was given much more weight in assessing official performance.

At Beijing's People's Congress, Mayor Wang Anshun declared an "all-out effort" to cut coal use by 2.6 million tons and transform 300 polluting companies this year.

North China's Hebei Province, one of the most polluted, is trying to cut steel and cement production capacities by 60 million tons each year by 2017, striving for a better environment.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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MV GOLDEN FAN VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GOLDEN FAN VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALS CO. LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (367)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (367) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (033)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (033) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

7 killed as police vehicle attacked in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 22 Jan—At least seven people including six policemen and a student were killed and nine others injured when a bomb went off near a police vehicle in northwestern Pakistan Wednesday morning, local media reported.

Dunya TV said that a police mobile was on its way to provide security to polio-eradication teams when it came under attack in Sardheri Bazar area of Charsadda, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to earlier reports, some unknown militants parked an explosive-laden bicycle near the road and blew it up with a remote controlled device when the police mobile was traveling near a private school.

The injured people including school kids and policemen were shifted to a nearby hospital. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. The police have cordoned off the area and started a search operation.—Xinhua

Dumbuya elected Sierra Leone speaker

FREETOWN, 22 Jan—The majority leader in the Parliament of Sierra Leone, Sheku B Dumbuya commonly known as SB Dumbuya, was elected as speaker on Tuesday following the resignation of the substantive speaker as a result of an amendment made in the Constitution.

He defeated opposition member Bubakei Jabbie 100

to 15. The position of deputy speaker went to the former deputy speaker, Cherno Bah.

According to section 79 of the Constitution, only elected members of parliament are eligible for the position of speaker. Former speaker Abel Strong was a judge of the high court in Sierra Leone.—Xinhua

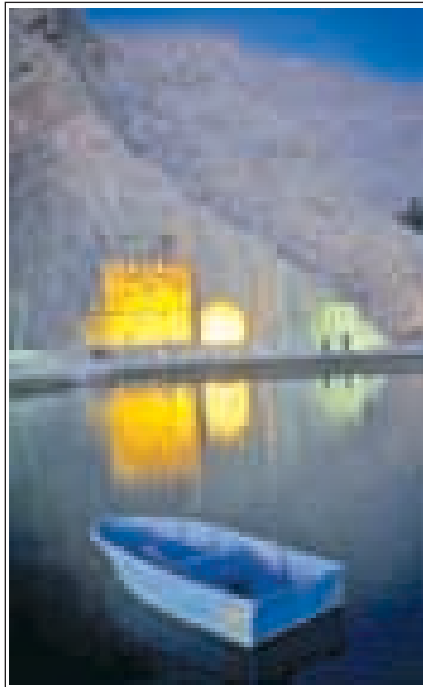


Photo taken on 20 Jan, 2014 shows the scenery of Taq-e Bostan in the ancient city of Kermanshah, western Iran. Taq-e Bostan is a site with a series of large rock relief from the era of Sassanid Empire of Persia, the Iranian dynasty which ruled western Asia from 226 to 650 AD.
XINHUA



An Iranian man prepares a traditional cookie at an old bazaar in the western city of Kermanshah, Iran, on 20 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

US condemns violence in Thailand, urges restraint

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan—The United States “strongly” condemns increasing violence in Bangkok and urges all sides to exercise restraint, the State Department said on Tuesday.

“We urge all sides to refrain from violence, exercise restraint, and respect the rule of law,” spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement.

The US also called on the Thai authorities to investigate attacks that have resulted in deaths and injuries and bring those responsible to justice.

The Thai caretaker government on Tuesday declared a state of emergency in capital Bangkok and its surrounding areas after violence continued to escalate since protest began in November last year.

Politically-related violence in Thailand has killed nine people and injured 554 others since 30 November last year, the Erawan Emergency Medical Services Center of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration said on Tuesday.

“We encourage all involved to commit to sincere dialogue to resolve political differences peacefully and democratically,” Harf said, adding that the US supports democratic processes in the Asian ally.

The US has issued a travel warning on Thailand, urging American citizens to keep away from protests and large gatherings in Bangkok and other provinces.—Xinhua

Environment graduates popular in fight against smog

HEFEI, 22 Jan — Chinese college graduates in environmental engineering have seen their job prospects improve as frequent bouts of serious smog have prompted more effective steps to tackle air pollution.

In the fourth quarter of last year, environmental protection posts entered the top ten hot categories in the job market for the first time, said an official with the talent market service centre of

Hefei City, capital of Anhui Province.

The latest statistics showed environmental protection and quality safety jobs in the city reached 1,457 in the fourth quarter in Hefei, an increase of 84.7 percent from the third quarter, according to the centre.

The employment rate of 2013 university graduates who majored in environment or ecology sciences was also higher than

the average, according to data from the Education Department of neighbouring Jiangsu Province.

Graduates majoring in environment and ecology had an employment rate of 94 percent, compared with 89.5 percent on average for college graduates in the province, said the department.

China has been making enormous efforts to address pollution after decades of

rapid economic growth.

In September, the central government issued the Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan to control PM2.5, or airborne particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 microns, and reduce the number of smoggy days. It includes limits on pollutant emissions, optimization of energy use and upgrades to technology.

Xinhua

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Dated 23 January 2014

ENTERTAINMENT

Beckham to team up with Del Boy and Rodney

LONDON, 22 Jan — Former England soccer captain David Beckham is joining forces with two of Britain's most loveable comedy rogues to make a special appearance in a charity sketch of the sitcom "Only Fools and Horses".

It is the first time in 10 years that actors David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst will reunite as brothers Derek and Rodney Trotter, and Beckham jumped at the chance to be involved. The last "Only Fools and Horses" reunion was a 2003 Christmas special.

The charity Comic Relief said in a statement on Tuesday that the sketch would be broadcast as part of a star-studded television night on 21 March.

"To be able to record a new 'Only Fools and Horses' sketch is in itself very special but for David Beckham, who is a huge fan of the show, to be part of this is truly brilliant," said Comic Relief Chief Executive Kevin Cahill.

"Only Fools and Horses", a British sitcom that ran in the 1980s, follows the fortunes of the brothers, known as "Del Boy" and "Rodders", in their dubious and often ill-fated attempts to get rich in Peckham,

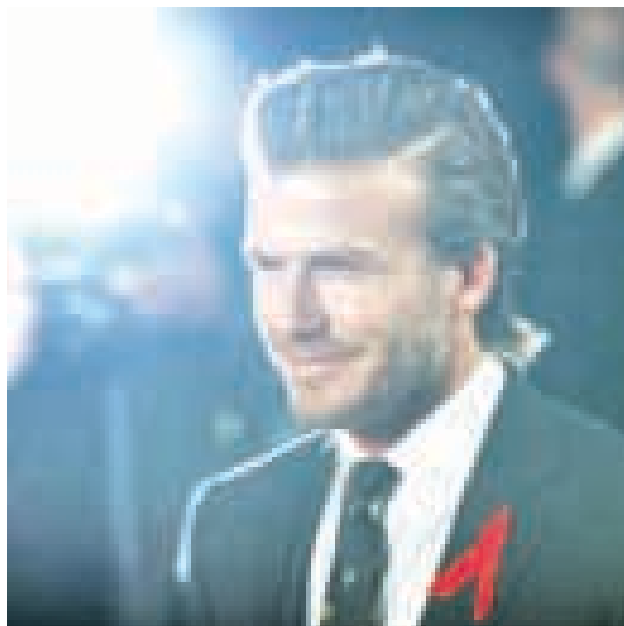
south London.

As well as "Only Fools and Horses", the night of television will also feature a special edition of "Strictly Come Dancing" with paralympians and hosts including Gary Lineker, Claudia Winkleman and Clare Balding.

Beckham, 38, last appeared in a sketch for Comedy Relief in 2012 when he cuddled up in bed with comedian James Corden. In 2010 he jumped into a bath

with Corden.

But the former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder, who also played for AC Milan, the Los Angeles Galaxy and Paris St Germain, has quashed speculation that he could take up a career in acting after retiring as a player last May. "I'm not very good at acting, so maybe it wouldn't be a very good idea to go into that kind of industry," he said last month.—Reuters



Former England soccer captain David Beckham attends the world premier of the film 'The Class of 92' in London on 1 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS



Ellen DeGeneres accepts the award for favourite daytime tv host for her show "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" at the 2014 People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Jan, 2014

REUTERS

'Ni hao, y'all': Ellen DeGeneres talk show lands in China

LOS ANGELES, 22 Jan — Comedian Ellen DeGeneres' daytime talk show will be the first daily American show of its kind to be distributed in China, its US and Chinese distributors said on Tuesday.

Episodes of Emmy-winning "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" are now available on Chinese online video service Sohu Video 48 hours after its US broadcast and with Chinese subtitles, Sohu.com Inc and Time Warner Inc-owned Warner Bros Domestic Television said.

"Ni hao! Ni Hao. Ni hao, y'all!" DeGeneres greeted viewers in Mandarin on her show on Tuesday in announcing the deal.

"It's basically the same show, but it will have subtitles and be called 'The Happy Lady Dance Hour,'" joked the 55-year-old comedian, who will host the Academy Awards on 2 March. "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," in its 11th season, typically draws 3 million to 4 million viewers, and is one of the most-viewed daytime talk shows on US television.—Reuters

PTI

Amitabh Bachchan: Dancing in front of the camera is "exceedingly enjoyable"

MUMBAI, 22 Jan — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says at 71 he finds dancing "incongruous", but nevertheless, he enjoys it only if the retakes are within "tolerable limits."

Mr Bachchan was last seen on the silver screen in Satyagraha and is currently shooting for his upcoming film Bhootnath Returns, a sequel to the 2008 horror

comedy film Bhootnath.

"It's been a while, since I shook my body to dance on camera. Now at 71, it does seem incongruous. But truth be told, it's exceedingly enjoyable, so long as the number of takes are within tolerable limits," Big B posted on his blog srbachchan.tumblr.com on Tuesday.

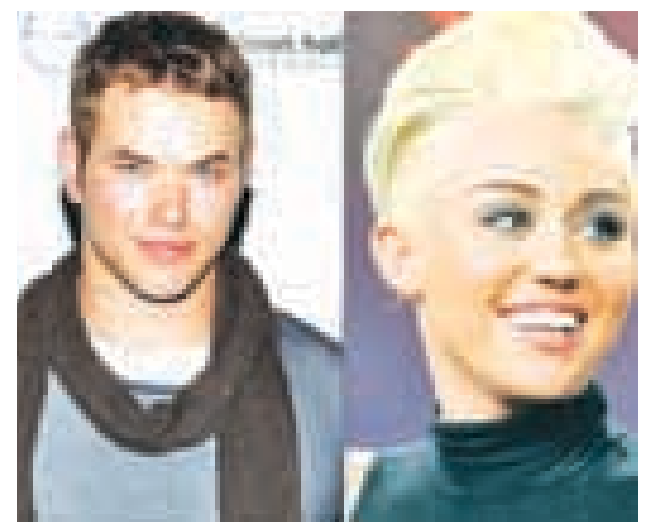
He also appreciated

the work of choreographer Ganesh Acharya, and said that he is the "one that has created some of the most unusual moves in the movies, and the one whose dance moves look incredibly graceful, despite his enormous girth".

Mr Bachchan then said Acharya informed him that he was one of the group dancers in his 1990 film

Agneepath during the sequence where he takes Lord Ganesha for immersion.

"Today he is an accomplished director of dance, has directed a film and produced it, opened a dance stage and a kind of school for training, and continues to devour tons and tons of kaaju and rewari and gajak," posted Amitabh Bachchan.—PTI



Kellan maintains he is just friends with Miley.



Big B enjoys dancing as long as the retakes are within limits

Sonakshi Sinha off to Jaipur for Tevar shoot

MUMBAI, 22 Jan — Actress Sonakshi Sinha is on her way to Jaipur, Rajasthan, to shoot for her next film Tevar, which will see her with Arjun Kapoor.

"New day, New film! Start work with the other gunda (goon) Arjun today. Off to Jaipur for Tevar. Wish me luck," Sonakshi posted on the micro-blogging website Twit-



ter on Tuesday. In 2013, the 26-year-old was seen in movies like Lootera, Once Upon A Time In Mumbai Dobaara, Bullett Raja and R... Rajkumar.—PTI

Sonakshi asked her fans to wish her luck before her film shoot

SPORTS

Messi in good shape as he targets 400 Barca games

BARCELONA, 22 Jan — Lionel Messi will reach the milestone of 400 games for Barcelona when they face Levante in the King's Cup on Wednesday and coach Gerardo Martino says he is back in top condition following his hamstring injury.

It is over 10 years since the Argentine made his debut for the Catalan side in a friendly against Porto in 2003, and although then described as a prodigious talent his achievements have far exceeded expectations.

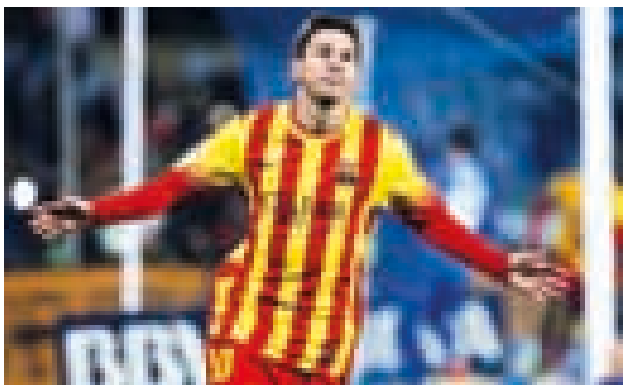
The four-times World Player of the Year's medal haul includes six La Liga titles and three Champions

Leagues and his performances have seen him described as one of the best players of all time.

During 2013 he suffered several hamstring injuries, the latest in November which kept him sidelined until after Christmas. "He has played two full games and is playing well. He feels fine so there is no longer any reason to hold him back," Martino told reporters.

"He can play all the games until for whatever reason we think that we need to rest him."

Barca will be without midfielder Andres Iniesta for the first leg quarter-



Barcelona's Lionel Messi

final clash with Levante who claimed a draw against the La Liga leaders at the weekend thanks to a solid defensive display.

Iniesta has a knee injury and is on the sidelines along with Neymar who will be missing for several matches with an ankle ligament tear.

Martino admitted that he is also likely to rest players for the away game.

"The idea is that the

players arrive at the end of the season in good condition and that is the my main concern. If we cannot beat Levante and I have decided to make changes then that is the situation. It is crucial to maintain our level of football," he said.

"We have talked about the game with Levante and looked at ways that we can break them down. The other day we didn't have enough depth."—Reuters

Vidic loses appeal, suspended for three matches

LONDON, 22 Jan — Manchester United captain Nemanja Vidic has been suspended for three matches after his appeal for wrongful dismissal against Chelsea was rejected, the Football Association said on Tuesday.

The Serbian defender was sent off in stoppage time in the 3-1 Premier

League defeat at Chelsea on Sunday for a clumsy tackle on Eden Hazard.

Vidic's suspension will begin immediately, ruling him out of United's League Cup semi-final second leg against Sunderland on Wednesday and Premier League matches against Cardiff City and Stoke City.—Reuters



Manchester United's Nemanja Vidic (C) talks with referee Phil Dowd (2nd R) after being sent off during their English Premier League soccer match against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in London, on 19 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

Radwanska snaps Azarenka's pursuit of Australia Open hat-trick

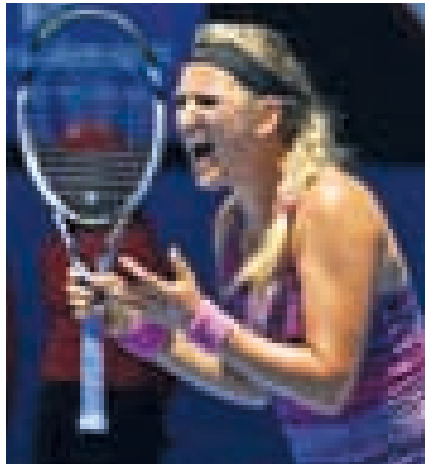
MELBOURNE, 22 Jan —Victoria Azarenka's 18-match winning streak at the Australian Open ended in an upset 6-1, 5-7, 6-0 quarterfinal loss to Agnieszka Radwanska on Wednesday.

Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland hits a return during the women's singles quarterfinal match against Victoria Azarenka of Belarus at 2014 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia on 22 Jan, 2014. Agnieszka Radwanska won 2-1.—XINHUA



The first major of the season extends its prevailing tumbling of star players and dramatic ousting of reigning champions. On Tuesday, three-time reigning champion Novak Djokovic was knocked out of the tournament

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus reacts during her women's singles quarter-final tennis match against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2014. REUTERS



by Stanislas Wawrinka in five-set thriller. In the fourth round, the dominant Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova also suffered early exits. Serbia's 14th seed Ana Ivanovic, who stunned Williams in three sets then fell victim to Canada's teenager Eugenie Bouchard.

Fifth-seeded Radwanska ended a streak of three consecutive quarterfinal defeats at the Australian Open with a stunning display of versatile shot-making that

confused the big-hitting defending champion. She next plays No 20 Dominika Cibulkova, who won the last eight games in a one-hour, 6-3, 6-0 quarterfinal rout of No 11-seeded Simona Halep.

Azarenka's loss leaves 2011 French Open champion Li Na as the only major winner remaining in the women's draw. Li will play 19-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard in the other semifinal.—Xinhua

Cibulkova beats Halep to advance to Australia Open semifinals

MELBOURNE, 22 Jan — Dominika Cibulkova took just an hour to push away Simona Halep, advancing into the last four of Australia Open Tuesday.

Slovakia's Cibulkova stormed into only her second grand slam semifinal by ending the dreams of 11th seed Simona Halep in straight sets of 6-3, 6-0.

The 20th seed will play either defending champion Victoria Azarenka or fifth seed Agnieszka Radwanska in the last four.

The Slovak, who beat Maria Shaparova to get her chance against Halep, is now in her second career grand slam semi in 26 attempts, with the last one coming at the French Open in 2009.



Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia

Cibulkova, who had a breakthrough season last year when she won six titles, has also previously made the quarters at all the other majors, which gave her a vital edge against Halep.

"One hundred percent, I have experience on these important matches and I knew how to react on court and I did everything perfect today," she said.

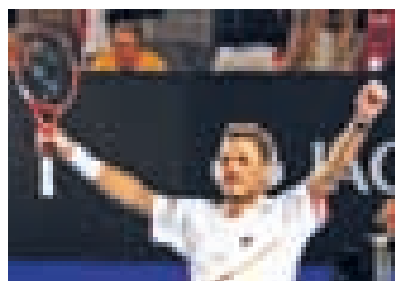
"The match against Maria took everything out of me but my fitness is good so I came through."

Cibulkova, who has won three career singles titles, including at Stanford last year where she beat Radwanska in the final, raced through her opening serve and immediately broke a nervous Halep when the Romanian sent a forehand long.

Halep, voted the most improved WTA player last year, was struggling to get into the game and quickly went 3-0 down.

Xinhua

Djokovic ousted in Australian Open quarterfinals



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland celebrates defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in their men's singles quarter-final tennis match at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 21 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 22 Jan — Defending champion Novak Djokovic lost to Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland in the men's singles quarterfinals at Australian Open here

on Tuesday. The eighth seed Wawrinka rallied to beat the 2-seeded Serb 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 9-7.

In the semifinals, Wawrinka will face Czech 7th seed Tomas Berdych, who beat third seed David Ferrer of Spain 6-1, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Nadal survives Dimitrov test to reach semi-finals

MELBOURNE, 22 Jan — World number one Rafa Nadal was forced to battle back from a set down before he blunted the challenge of Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov with a 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-2 victory to advance to his fourth Australian Open semi-final on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Dimitrov showcased the power, court coverage and booming serve that tennis pundits have suggested could take him to the top of the game as he tested Nadal, though, he was unable to capitalize at crucial moments of the



Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts after winning the second set during his men's singles quarter-final tennis match against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

match.

He held two set points in the third only for Nadal to seize the advantage and clinch the tie-break 9-7, then the Spanish left-hander hammered the nail in the coffin of Dimitrov's hopes when he broke in the second game of the fourth.

Nadal held serve to take a 3-0 lead that he never looked like relinquishing and completed victory to set up a mouth-watering clash against either Roger Federer or Britain's Andy Murray for a place in the final.—Reuters

GENERAL

Bangkok under state of emergency, anti-gov't rally continues



Anti-government protesters continue blockading main roads in central Bangkok on 22 Jan, 2014. A state of emergency was imposed by the Thai government the previous day in Bangkok, an adjoining province and two nearby districts.—KYODO NEWS

BANGKOK, 22 Jan — Anti-government protesters continued to rally across Bangkok on Wednesday, one day after the caretaker government declared a state of emergency in the capital and surrounding areas.

According to local media reports, Wednesday's protests have so far been calm despite renewed vows

by the opposition to continue their fight until Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra steps down.

The protesters led by former Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban are still occupying the main protest sites in Bangkok, while some groups on Wednesday morning made an attempt to block

two more government buildings, belonging to the Defence Ministry and the Civil Aviation Department. Police said the situation is under control, with no violent incidents reported.

Yingluck told reporters on Tuesday after the announcement that a state of emergency would be imposed, that she has instructed public security authorities to perform their duties with patience and implement security measures under international standards.

"Police will lead this operation...we will take measures step by step, starting with negotiations," she said. Labour Minister Chalerm Ubumrung, who is handling the implementation of the state of emergency, told a separate news conference on Tuesday that the government will use peaceful means to cope with the protests and prevent confrontations.

Kyodo News

Slovenia rejects Croatian bank ruling as "direct infringement"

LJUBLJANA/ZAGREB, 22 Jan — Slovenia rejected on Tuesday two rulings by a Croatian court against the defunct Slovenian bank Ljubljanska Banka (LB) and its successor Nova Ljubljanska Banka (NLB), the biggest bank in Slovenia.

The Zagreb Municipal Court ruled that the defunct

LB bank and NLB must compensate two Croatian banks, Zagrebacka banka and Privredna banka Zagreb (PBZ), which sued on behalf of the government of Croatia for LB deposits that had been guaranteed and paid by Croatia through the two banks.

The total amount of

compensation approaches 27 million euros (36.7 million US dollars). The rulings by the Zagreb Municipal Court are "direct infringement of agreements" that would be unenforceable in Slovenia, Slovenian Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec said in a statement.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(23-1-2014, Thursday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:00 pm |
| 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 19. Musical Programme |
| 6:15 am | 2:10 pm |
| 2. Myitta Pawana by Mingun Sayadaw | 20. Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance |
| 6:35 am | 3:00 pm |
| 3. Physical Exercises | 21. News |
| 6:45 am | 3:15 pm |
| 4. Documentary | 22. TV Drama Series |
| 7:00 am | 4:00 pm |
| 5. News/Weather Report | 23. News |
| 7:20 am | 4:15 pm |
| 6. People Talks | 24. Sing & Enjoy |
| 7:30 am | 4:45 pm |
| 7. Songs of Yester Years | 25. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Myanmar) |
| 7:35 am | 5:00 pm |
| 8. Teleplay (Health) | 26. News |
| 8:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| 9. News/ International News | 27. India Drama Series |
| 8:30 am | 6:00 pm |
| 10. India Drama Series | 28. News/Weather Report |
| 9:00 am | 6:20 pm |
| 11. News/International News | 29. Approaching Science Discovery world |
| 9:45 am | 6:45 pm |
| 12. Shwe Yin Chone Than | 30. TV Drama Series |
| 10:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| 13. News | 31. News |
| 10:35 am | 7:20 pm |
| 14. TV Drama Series | 32. TV Drama Series |
| 11:20 am | 8:00 pm |
| 15. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than | 33. News/International News/Weather Report |
| 12:00 pm | 8:35 pm |
| 16. News/International News/Weather Report | 34. People Talks |
| 12:25 pm | 8:45 pm |
| 17. Myanmar Video | 35. Hit Songs of Stars |
| 1:40 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 18. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions | 36. News |
| | 37. Clever |
| | 38. TV Drama Series |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

23-1-14 07:00 am ~ 24-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Adventurous Journey to Bontalar Waterfall
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "The White Castle of Romance"
- * Local News
- * Marketable Goods (Myanmar Arts & Handicrafts)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
- * Local News
- * Tea Leaves
- * World News
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Shots & Logs (Ep-2) Ye' Pyae
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * A Life of Venerated Virtue
- * World News
- * Independent Filmmaker
- * Local News
- * To The Land of Countless Temples-Bagan Trip (Ep-2)
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * Orphanage
- * World News
- * Temple Stalls
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Beauty And His Creations (Ep-2)
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Pyi Soe (or) Hay Thin

City reach Wembley with 9-0 aggregate rout of West Ham

LONDON, 22 Jan — Manchester City completed a resounding demolition of West Ham United by winning the second leg of their League Cup semi-final 3-0 on Tuesday to book their place in the final at Wembley 9-0 on aggregate. With the tie effectively over after West Ham's leaky defence shipped six goals in the first leg two weeks ago, City dished out an extra helping of humiliation with Alvaro Negredo scoring twice and Sergio Aguero also netting.

"It was a very professional performance," City manager Manuel Pellegrini told Sky Sports after his side reached their

first League Cup final in 38 years. "It was easy to think the game was finished from the 6-0 in the first leg, but it was important to reach the final winning all the games."

City will face either Sunderland or local rivals Manchester United in the final on 2 March, with Sunderland holding a slender 2-1 advantage heading into the second leg on Wednesday. West Ham boss Sam Allardyce might have hoped to see City field a reserve team as he looked for a morale-boosting, if purely academic, victory but his luck was out as Negredo and Aguero spearheaded a potent lineup. The home

side's hopes of salvaging some pride after the first-leg mauling were shattered after two minutes and 36 seconds.

Boos rang around the Upton Park stadium as West Ham's comically disorganised defence did little to prevent Negredo opening the scoring for the visitors. Eighteen-year-old Marcos Lopes was given a free run down the left and his cross found the Spain international completely unmarked to head low into the net with West Ham's nearest defender James Tomkins caught hopelessly off guard. After West Ham's Nolan had a goal rightly chalked off for offside, the

home team's shambolic rearguard cost them dear again after 24 minutes.

Lopes was again the creator, cutting through the heart of the defence largely unchecked before feeding Aguero.

He jinked into the area and chipped the ball over West Ham keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen as two defenders made a slapstick effort to tackle him, tripping each other up in the process.

It was 3-0 14 minutes after the break as Negredo grabbed his second of the night. He strode through a gaping hole in the West Ham defence and flicked it over Jaaskelainen, with defenders reluctant to make a



Manchester City's Alvaro Negredo (L) scores his second goal past West Ham United's goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen (2nd L) during their English League Cup semi-final second leg soccer match at Boleyn Ground in London on 21 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

challenge and risk a futile sending off. The result was the biggest margin of victory in a League Cup semi-final. "It was bog-standard defending, which was disappointing. You cannot do mistakes at this level to the amount we did them," Allardyce said before reveal-

ing the club had suffered a further blow with injuries to Mohamed Diame and Joe Cole.

"The killer of all was the injuries to Joe Cole, who should not be out for so long, and Mo Diame, which looked really serious."—Reuters

Vice-President U Nyan Tun holds talks with IFC's Vice President for Asia and the Pacific

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Vice-President U Nyan Tun held talks with a delegation led by International Finance Corporation's Vice-President for Asia and the Pacific Ms Karin Finkelston at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

They discussed development of banking services and monetary infrastructure between the government and IFC and matters relating to development of electricity, communication and transport infrastructures.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun shakes hands with International Finance Corporation's Vice President for Asia and the Pacific Ms Karin Finkelston.—MNA



Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Deputy Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg of Germany

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann re-

ceived Deputy Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg of Germany and Minister of Finance and

Economics Mr Nils Schmid and party at Zabuthiri Hall this morning.

At the meeting, they

had a cordial discussion on amity and cooperation between the two countries.

MNA

Private sector development subcommittee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—A coordination meeting on private sector development reforms took place at Office No (18), here, yesterday morning.

In his address, Patron of Private Sector Development Subcommittee Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein said the development of national economy is high priority for 2014-15 FY. He called on those present to seek ways and means for private sector development through expert seminars.

He stressed the importance of formulation of sector-wise plans and coordination among delivery units in dealing with trade and investment matters.

Next, Chairmen of delivery units Deputy Ministers Dr Daw Khin San Yi, U Soe Tint, Dr Maung Maung Thein, Dr Lin Aung, Dr Pwint Hsan and U Myo Aung, Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and officials reported work progress and follow-up tasks.—MNA

Police sergeant still missing

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Regarding an incident in which Police Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein of Khayay Myaing police outpost in Maungdaw Township of Rakhine State had got missing with a gun and some rounds of ammunition in an ambush by a mob group of Bengalis while carrying out a police patrol near Ducheertan (Middle) village, AP and The Irrawaddy news agencies, without seeking

for confirmation of relevant departments, reported that Muslim women and children were killed in a violence at the village in the township on 14 January and quoted a source in the township making a groundless accusation that the death toll could reach around 40 and some of the victims appeared to have been stabbed with knives. The Deputy Minister for Information told media persons at (See page 8)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets EU Ambassador



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Ambassador of the European Union Mr Roland KOBIA.—MNA

MBCA, MCRB sign Myanmar Business Coalition on CSR – (MBC-CSR)

YANGON, 22 Jan—Myanmar Business Coalition on Aid (MBCA) and the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) signed MoU setting on establishing a network of corporate social responsibility (CSR) for Myanmar Business Coalition on CSR in major cities at UMFCOI Office, Minyekyawzwa Road,

here, this morning.

The two organizations will jointly fund a pilot project that will see offices in Yangon, Mandalay, and Myitkyina in 2014. The offices are to raise awareness of corporate social responsibilities (CSR) and will support and increase Myanmar business' commitment to the ten Principles of the UN

By law, no right to review if lawsuits against farmers filed by companies suitable or not

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Judges will deal with the lawsuits against the farmers filed by companies regarding land issues, sticking to the letter of the law as by law, there is no right to scrutinize the lawsuits if they are suitable or not, U Myint Aung, Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union, said at Pyithu Hluttaw today.

U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa constituency asked Pyithu Hluttaw to review the lawsuits filed against farmers, complaining the lawsuits filed by companies who have not yet rights to own the land legally against farmers who have rights to work in the land.

Regarding the lawsuits filed against farmers, courts can drop the lawsuits with consent of plaintiffs by law and trial processes are to be proceeded and to help the defendants, U Myint

Aung said.

During the Q & A session, U Myo Aung, Deputy Minister for Industry, denied that those companies who won tenders for rubber farms under the joint-venture with the ministry are owned by foreigners. Out of 35 businessmen who won tenders for 21 rubber farms out of 26, and six finalists were selected after scrutinizing the facts they submitted for the joint-venture business. The companies and businessmen who were finally selected are Myanmar Chemical & Machinery Co Ltd, EOAJ Myanmar Co Ltd, Ngwe Hein San Company, U Kyaw Win of Theingon Ward, Kamawat and U Tin Maung Cho (Minywa Rubber Farm), the deputy minister said.

Regarding the upgrading the citizenship scrutiny cards, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, (See page 8)

7 offices country-wide mobilize businesses to engage with health, social and environmental causes.

Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) is a Yangon based initiative funded by the UK, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands and Ireland, based on a collaboration between the UK-based Institutue of Human Rights and Business and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.—MNA